

Remarks

Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 24-30, 38-43 and 50-56 stand rejected. Claims 24-27, 29-30, and 38-41 have been amended. Claims 31-37, 44-49, and 51-56 have been cancelled. Claims 57-62 have been added. Claims 24-30, 38-43, 50, and 57-62 remain pending in the application. Applicant requests reconsideration of these claims.

Claims 24-30, 38-43, and 50 stand rejected as being anticipated or obvious in view of Tarr, et al. (US 5,184,179) and Ohtani (US 6,108,099) in various combinations.

For a reference to anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim (MPEP §2131, 8th Ed.). Furthermore, to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations (MPEP §706.02(j)). The cited references either alone or in combination do not teach or suggest all of the elements of the pending claims.

Claim 24 has been amended, and as amended recites, appointing a recipient to a task with the appointing including transmitting an electronic message to a scheduling engine.

As referenced in the office action, Ohtani describes composing an electronic message. (Ohtani, col. 4 and 5, lines 66-67 and 1-3, respectively). Tarr describes the counting of pages to determine when preventative maintenance is necessary. Neither of the cited references teach or suggest appointing by transmitting an electronic message to a scheduling engine.

For at least this reason, the 24 of is allowable in view of the cited references. Applicant requests allowance of the claim 24 in the Examiner's next action.

Claims 25-30 and 57-59 depend from claim 24 and are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above regarding claim 24.

Claim 38 has been amended and as amended recites, in pertinent part, processing circuitry configured to schedule recipients.

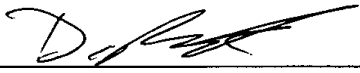
As discussed above, the cited references do not teach or suggest processing circuitry configured to schedule recipients. Because the cited references do not teach or suggest all the limitations of claim 38, claim 38 is allowable.

Claims 39-43 and 60-62 depend from claim 38 and are allowable for at least the reasons stated above regarding claim 38.

Having addressed all of the issues raised by the Examiner in the last action and having proffered the patentability of new claims, this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance, and action to that end is requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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